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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,640	07/29/2003	William Dale Jones	SSI-08200	8274

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EXAMINER	
STINSON, FRANKIE L	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1746	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/630,640	JONES, WILLIAM DALE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FRANKIE L. STINSON	1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 May 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *31-39* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 8, 10-16, 19, 20, 23, 25 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Gopinath et al (U. S. Pat. No. 6,951,765).

Re claim 30 for example, note that Gopinath discloses a supercritical processing system for processing a semiconductor wafer with a fluid (see abstract), the fluid being from a fluid source (as at 141, see fig. 1C), the system comprising:

a. a circulation loop (135) coupled to a high-pressure processing chamber (137); and

b. an inlet line (as at 131) for introducing the fluid into the circulation loop, the inlet line including:

i. an inlet port in the circulation loop;

ii. a back-pressure regulator (unnumbered check valve in line 131) coupled to the inlet port;

iii. a pump (119, see fig. 1B) for compressing the fluid to form a pressurized fluid;

iv. a first line (125) for transferring the pressurized fluid from the pump to the back-pressure regulator, the first line configured to maintain a uni-directional flow of the pressurized fluid from the pump towards the back-pressure regulator; and

v. a second line (101, 115, see fig. 1B) for transferring a quantity of the fluid from the fluid source to the pump, the second line configured to maintain a uni-directional flow of the fluid from the fluid source to the pump.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-5, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopinath et al. in view of DeYoung et al. (U. S. Pat. No.6,782,900). Claims 2, 3, 17 and 18 define over Gopinath only in the recitation of the predetermine pressure range as claimed. DeYoung is cited disclosing in a supercritical processing device (see abstract), the arrangement of employing a predetermined pressure range as claimed (col. 17, lines 18-21). It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Gopinath, to employ a predetermine pressure range as taught by DeYoung, since it is old and well known in cleaning devices to employ various pressures depending upon the type of contaminant to be removed, the type of object to be treated or the material used to clean the object for enhancing the cleaning process. Re claims 4 and 5, Gopinath discloses the back-flow prevention means as claimed.

5. Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopinath et al. in view of Fan et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 5,620,524). Claims 6, 7, 9, 21, 22, 24 and 26 define over Gopinath only in the recitation of the flow-control means/back-pressure regulator as claimed. Fan (as at 10, 11) discloses the flow-control means as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Gopinath, to include flow-control means as taught by fan, for the purpose of having the cleaning process operated fully automatic mode, thereby removing active human involvement and for precisely controlling the delivery of fluids to the chamber.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Blackburn et al., Keilty et al., Ursan et a., Drube et al., Pawliszyn, Worm, Cotte et al., Layman and Anderson Jr., note the delivery means

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls

FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
GROUP ART UNIT 1746